Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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DEPT PASS TREASURY FOR UNDER SECY BENNETT THE HAGUE PASS TO ASSISTANT SECY ENDERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, OECD, FR

SUBJECT: IEA-FRENCH RELATIONS

REF: A. OECD PARIS 2664 B. STATE 23550

1. IEA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LANTZKE HAS REPORTED TO US ON LUNCHEON CONVERSATION THAT HE AND SECGEN HAD YESTERDAY WITH GUIRINGAUD, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF PRODUCER-CONSUMER CONFERENCE FOR FRENCH GOVERNMENT, AND FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO OECD VALERY. ACCORDING TO LANTZKE, GUIRINGAUD MADE CLEAR THAT HE WOULD PREFER "PRAGMATIC APPROACH" TO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FRANCE AND IEA FOR TIME BEING. HE WAS VERY STRONG, HOWEVER, CONFIDENTIAL

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IN STATING THAT "ENERGY-RELATED" GENERAL ECONOMIC

QUESTIONS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WITHIN OECD OUTSIDE IEA AND THAT AGENCY SHOULD HAVE NO MONOPOLY IN THIS FIELD. VALERY, TOO, ACCORDING TO LANTZKE, WAS INSISTENT ON NEED TO DEAL WITH SUCH QUESTIONS THROUGH NORMAL OECD PROCEDURES.

- 2. LANTZKE BELIEVES THAT US PROPOSAL FOR AD HOC GROUP ON INVESTMENT AND FINANCIAL ISSUES WITHIN IEA (REF B) COULD, IN LIGHT OF FRENCH POSITION, MAKE IEA-GOF RELATIONSHIP MORE DIFFICULT. HE FEELS THAT IT WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE BAD TO USE NORMAL OECD COMMITTEES AS LONG AS LATTER REALLY DO NECESSARY WORK WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF PREPARING FOR PC DIALOGUE. THAT IS, AGENCY MUST IN ITS DELIBERATIONS BE ABLE TO DEPEND ON WORK BEING DONE IN TIMELY AND GOOD FASHION IN RESPONSE TO AGENCY'S NEEDS. IF WORK IS DONE ENTIRELY WITHIN IEA, OECD SECRETARIAT COULD LEGALLY BE USED IN SUPPORT, BUT LANTZKE FORESAW DIFFICULTIES BECAUSE VALERY INDICATED HIS VIEW THAT ANY PRODUCT OF SECRETARIAT WORK FOR WHICH FRANCE IS CONTRIBUTING FINANCIALLY SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO GOF.
- 3. AT LUNCHEON CONVERSATION FRENCH RESPONDED FOR FIRST TIME TO OFFER LANTZKE HAD MADE TO SUPPLEMENT OTHER CHANNELS BETWEEN IEA AND FRENCH BY COMMUNICATION THROUGH ENERGY SECRETARIAT. GUIRINGAUD SAID GOF WOULD BE PLEASED TO HAVE GREATER CONTACT TO MAKE CLEAR FRENCH POSITIONS AS WELL AS TO RECEIVE INFORMATION.
- 4. LANTZKE SAID IT WAS VERY CLEAR FROM CONVERSATION THAT FRENCH SEE SHARP DISTINCTION BETWEEN PREPARATORY CONFERENCE AND FULL PC CONFERENCE. THEY AGREED PREPCON ARRANGEMENTS WOULD NOT PREJUDGE ASPECTS OF FULL CONFERENCE SUCH AS PARTICIPATION, HOST AND CHAIRMANSHIP, ALL OF WHICH FRENCH AGREED WERE "OPEN QUESTIONS."
- 5. IN ANSWER TO OUR QUESTION, LANTZKE SAID THERE IS NO PRESSURE FROM FRANCE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF OECD COMMITTEE FOR ENERGY POLICY (SEPTEL). IN HIS VIEW, SECRETARIAT WAS OBLIGATED TO PUT FORWARD PROPOSAL TO CONFIDENTIAL

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BE DISCUSSED AT FEB. 12 COUNCIL BUT IT IS UP TO GOVERNMENTS TO DECIDE HOW TO DISPOSE OF THAT PROPOSAL.

6. OECD ECONOMICS DIRECTOR HAS ALSO TOLD US ABOUT WHAT HE CALLED FRENCH "DEMARCHE" TO SECGEN ON INVESTMENT AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS. MARRIS HAS SUGGESTED THAT FRENCH POSITION RE-ENFORCES URGENCY OF REACHING UNDERSTANDING ON HOW ENERGY-RELATED ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

WILL BE HANDLED INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF IEA. HE BELIEVES
US PROPOSAL FOR IEA AD HOC GROUP MAY RUN INTO DIFFI-
CULTIES EVEN WITHIN IEA UNLESS WE CAN CLARIFY POSITION
ON HANDLING THESE QUESTIONS OUTSIDE IEA.
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